

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04246 170804Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----170807Z 114622 /14

O 170602Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 527
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 4246

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CG, MO, NI
SUBJECT: ZAIRE-ANGOLA MEDIATION EFFORT

REF: (A) KINSHASA 3488; (B) LAGOS 3813; (C) KINSHASA 3501

1. FMG CLEARLY SHARES OUR CONCERN OVER DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF POSSIBLE CROSS-BORDER ESCALATION IN ZAIRE-ZNGOLA AFFAIR. FMG MIGHT NOT OPPOSE THE IDEA OF BORDER OBSERVER TEAMS AS SUGGESTED REF A, BUT WE DOUBT IT WOULD CONSIDER OBSERVERS PRACTICAL, GIVEN THE LENGTH OF BORDER, NATURE OF TERRAIN, LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS, ETC. MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AKADIRI, WHO ACCOMPANIED EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA ON HIS RECENT ZAIRE/ ANGOLA TRIP, INDICATED SKEPTICISM ON THIS SCORE IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM APRIL 4 (REF B).

2. MOBUTU'S OWN PERCEPTIONS AND INTENTIONS MAY BE MORE CRUCIAL THAN THE SITUATION ON THE BORDER ITSELF. HE MUST SOMEHOW BE PERSUADED THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO USE HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED
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MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS TO GET POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY THAN TO CONDUCT MILITARY OPERATIONS AS SUCH. HOPEFULLY, THE MOROCCAN TROOPS HAVE STABILIZED THE SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE THE ANGOLANS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE; BUT THE MOROCCAN PRESENCE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SWING THE PENDULUM SO FAR THAT MOBUTU FOR HIS PART BECOMES LESS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT VITAL THAT THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT PRESS

MOBUTU TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PRICE OF
THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS HIS ACTIVE PURSUIT OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS
REF C REPORTS THAT THE MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA BELIEVES
THE NIGERIANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PURSUE MEDIATION ROLE IN
ORDER TO FACILITATE WITHDRAWAL OF MOROCCAN FORCES FROM SHABA
AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE; REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE WHAT THE
MOROCCANS THEMSELVES ARE SAYING TO MOBUTU. HOW HARD ARE
THEY PRESSING HIM?
EASUM

SECRET

NNN

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